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Committee
File

INVITED TO BRIEFING

Fulbright Wins a Round on CIA

A long-standing Senate controversy involving the Central Intelligence Agency appeared ended yesterday.

Chairman J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., and two other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were invited to attend sessions of an informal "watchdog" subcommittee which maintains supervision over the agency.

The invitation was extended by Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., who heads the CIA subcommittee. He said the members of the Foreign Relations Committee, which has been seeking a more direct voice in supervising the CIA, had been invited to attend tomorrow's session with CIA Director Richard Helms.

In addition to Fulbright, the invitations went to Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa, ranking Republican on the Foreign

Relations Committee, and Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana.

Efforts of the Foreign Relations Committee members to obtain representation on the watchdog panel brought a rare secret session of the Senate last July.

The session and debate centered on a resolution sponsored by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, D-Minn., a Foreign Relations Committee member, to set up a nine-member intelligence committee.

The committee would have included three representatives each from Foreign Relations, Armed Services and the Appropriations Committees.

"Muscling" Charged

After a debate lasting 4½ hours the Senate voted 61 to 28 to shelve the McCarthy resolution by having it referred to the

Senate Armed Services Committee which Russell heads.

Fulbright and others on the Foreign Relations Committee contended they should have a voice in supervising the CIA because its operations are deeply involved in foreign policy.

Russell charged, on the other hand, the McCarthy proposals was an attempt to "muscle in" on the watchdog group which is made up informally of a subcommittee from the Appropriations and Armed Services Committees.

The watchdog group meets periodically with Helms and other CIA officials on intelligence matters. The subcommittee members are the only senators who approve the annual CIA budget which has been reported as running to about \$500 million.

Russell also said his present

purpose was to invite the Foreign Relations Committee members to attend sessions of the CIA group, including those dealing with appropriations. He said they would be "afforded a full opportunity to ask questions."

World Events Appraisal

Russell said tomorrow's meeting with Helms will be a report and review on the CIA's appraisal of world events, including the war in Vietnam and whatever is going on in Communist China.

In addition to Russell, members of the watchdog group are Sens. John C. Stennis, D-Miss.; Stuart Symington, D-Mo.; Margaret Chase Smith, R-Maine, all members of the Armed Services Committee; and Chairman Carl Hayden, D-Ariz., and Milton Young, R-N.D., of the Appropriations Committee.